



Immediate Release

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New Programs Take Off **Supporting FlightPath** **2008 at Plimoth Plantation**

Plymouth, MA, Plimoth Plantation – May 3, 2008 – With the opening of a brand new exhibit, Plimoth Plantation announces a season of exciting programs including: expert-guided birding adventures, lectures by leading authorities, bird-banding programs, as well as specialty films offered on the subject of birds, migration and the environment—all in support of the stunning NEW multi-media exhibit, **Flight Path: Plymouth Beach**, which opens at Plimoth Plantation on May 3, 2008.

The exhibit features more than 80 striking images taken at Plymouth Beach, by nature photographer Jim Fenton. Each photograph in the exhibit provides a close-up of coastal water-bird life at Plymouth Beach—An international environmental treasure that plays a crucial, ecological role in a complex and ancient system of shorebird migration routes running from the tip of South America to the Arctic tundra.

“This exhibit and its related programs, really have something for everyone from great films, to talks by top notch birding experts, to truly unique birding experiences,” said Kathleen Curtin, Plimoth Plantation’s Associate Director of Public Programs. “All of us involved with bringing FlightPath to the public are thrilled with the selection and caliber of programs associated with this terrific new exhibit.”

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FlightPath: Birding Adventures Include:

Up With the Birds



Wampanoag Homesite



Mayflower II



1627 English Village

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Smithsonian Institution
Affiliations Program

An introduction to birding with avid birder Marie Pelletier followed by a continental breakfast. Ms. Pelletier will tour various Plimoth Plantation bird habitats including thickets, the river's edge, and upland areas with an emphasis on finding and identifying warblers. Birds will be identified by call and sight. Participants must bring their own binoculars. Drizzle or shine. Museum Members: \$10. Non-members: \$12. RSVP by contacting Kathy Roncarati at kroncarati@plimoth.org or 508-746-1622, ext 8114.

Up With Birds Opportunities:

Monday, May 5, 7:30 to 9 am

Monday, May 12, 7:30 to 9 am

Monday, May 19, 7:30 to 9 am

Tuesday, May 27, 7:30 to 9 am

Turnstones and Plovers and Terns, Oh My!

11 Guided Bird Walks on Long Beach

There are 11 opportunities in 2008 to join us for this extraordinary birding experience. Meet at Plymouth State Pier (near *Mayflower II*) where we will take a water taxi (via *The Volunteer*, Plimoth Plantation's work boat) to Goldenrod Cottage on Plymouth's Long Beach. Once at Goldenrod participants will get an introduction to this important breeding and nesting area and to the day's events, including: a guided bird walk (each session is lead by a specific birding expert listed below), along with brunch, lunch or hearty afternoon snack (depending on the time of the tides). Participants will also have a chance to enjoy and take in the wonders of this wonderful beach before taking the water taxi back to the pier.

The walks early in the season will focus on shorebird migration and nesting, as black-bellied plovers, greater yellowlegs, ruddy turnstones and others stop over for quick replenishment, while temporarily sharing the beach with nesting Piping Plovers and Common and a few Roseate and Artic Terns.

Walks, later in the season, will highlight the fledging chicks of those nesting species, as well as the turnaround, fall migration of shorebirds that begins in July, keying on possible species such as Black and Roseate Terns, Laughing Gulls, Whimbrels and more.

\$75 for non-members; \$50 for members, limit of 12 people per walk, all times reflect the start time at the State Pier in Plymouth. RSVP by contacting Kathy Roncarati at kroncarati@plimoth.org, or 508-746-1622, ext 8114.

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11 Guided Bird Walks on Long Beach (Continued)

Dates and Leaders:

1. Saturday, May 24, 3:30 pm, with John Galluzzo, Public Program Director, Mass Audubon South Shore Sanctuaries
2. Friday, May 30, 8 am, with Wayne Petersen, Director, Mass Audubon IBA Program
3. Thursday, June 12, 8 am, with Sue MacCallum and David Ludlow, Mass Audubon South Shore Sanctuaries
4. Saturday, June 14, 9 am, with David Clapp of Natural History Services
5. Monday, June 23, 3 pm, with Scott Hecker, Executive Director Goldenrod Foundation

6. Monday, July 7, 12:30 pm, with Brian Harrington, Senior Scientist, Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences
7. Saturday, July 19, 1 pm, with Becky Harris, Director, Mass Audubon Coastal Waterbird Program
8. Saturday, August 2, 1 pm, with John Galluzzo, Public Program Director, Mass Audubon South Shore Sanctuaries
9. Friday, August 22, 12:30 pm, with Trevor Lloyd-Evans, Senior Scientist, Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences
10. Wednesday, September 3, 2:30 pm, with Becky Harris, Director, Mass Audubon Coastal Waterbird Program
11. Saturday, September 13, 9:45 am, with Brian Harrington Senior Scientist, Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences

Bird Banding at Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences

There are two opportunities to join the staff at Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences for hands-on bird banding and to learn all about how this valuable tool teases out the more important questions of long-term changes in habitats, climate, populations, wise land use policies and wildlife regulations. But more than that, this is a chance to delight in the shape, plumage, form and function of colorful migrant landbirds as they pass along our coast. We will examine them from mere inches away, then release them to continue their great yearly journey. You will also have the opportunity to take a guided half-mile walk with Manomet staff to see the habitats and (maybe) see staff extract new migrant birds from the very fine nylon nets used to capture them. This program may change preconceived notions about some birds: chickadees are fierce, but many warblers and Blue Jays are quite docile. Members: \$25 Non-members: \$40, RSVP by contacting Kathy Roncarati at kroncarati@plimoth.org or 508-746-1622, ext 8114.

Tuesday, May 27, 8 – 10 am

Wednesday, September 3, 8 – 10 am

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Birding Themed Films Include:

Movie: *Winged Migration*

In this awe-inspiring, critically acclaimed documentary the camera literally flies alongside the birds as they wing their way north and south in their search for food. Using planes, gliders, helicopters and balloons, Academy Award-nominated Director Jacques Perrin, provides a spectacularly intimate look at his winged subjects. This film will be shown in Plimoth Plantation's Cinema Theater. Members and children under 17: \$6.50 Non-members: \$8.50.

Thursday, July 24, 7 pm

Movie: *PBS Natures' Crash: A Tale of Two Species*

Hosted By Brian Harrington

In the film "Crash: A Tale of Two Species," filmmaker Alison Argo highlights the conflict between harvesting horseshoe crab eggs for fishing bait and for medical purposes and the reliance of the Red Knot on those same eggs to provide the fuel it needs for its long migratory flight. Brian Harrington, Senior Scientist at the Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences will host

a question and answer session after the film. Harrington has been studying the habits, distribution and migration routes of the Red Knot since 1972.

No reservation needed. The film is FREE, courtesy of Thirteen/WNET New York.

Thursday, September 11, 7 pm

**Movie: *Looking Skyward: A Passion for Hawk Watching*
Hosted by Shawn Carey**

Hawk watchers are a different breed of birders, gathering in large numbers on mountaintops and rocky outcrops to observe the annual migration. *Looking Skyward* examines this tribal community and their fascination with birds of prey. Included are video footage of a wide range of raptors in flight provided by Don Crockett, exploration of some of the prime locations for viewing in the Northeast, as well as interviews with Pete Dunne, Bill Clark, Laurie Goodrich and others. Shawn Carey is a photographer and a co-founder of Migration Productions and is also the President of the Eastern Massachusetts Hawkwatch. Members: \$6.50 Non-members: \$8.50

Thursday, October 30, 7 pm

FlightPath Speaker Series—Thursdays With The Experts

FlightPath Speaker Series – Chris Leahy

A Tern's-Eye View: A Global Perspective of Shorebird Migration

Ornithologist and author Chris Leahy will speak about the big picture of shorebird migration around the globe. Leahy currently holds the Gerard A. Bertrand Chair of Natural History and Field Ornithology at

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Mass Audubon. Chris has been a professional conservationist for more than thirty years and served as Director of Mass Audubon's Center for Biological Conservation. No reservation needed. Members: \$6.50 Non-members: \$8.50.

Thursday, May 15, 7 pm

FlightPath Speaker Series – Wayne Petersen

An Important Stop Along the Way: Shorebirds, Plymouth Beach and the IBA Program

Mass Audubon's Director of the Massachusetts Important Bird Areas (IBA) program, Wayne Petersen, will speak about why the Plymouth and Duxbury beaches have been given this critical designation. Wayne has authored several books on birding and has conducted birding workshops across North America for over thirty-five years. No reservation needed. Members: \$6.50 Non-members: \$8.50.

Thursday, June 12, 7 pm

FlightPath Speaker Series – Scott Weidensaul

Living on the Wind: The World of Migratory Birds

At any moment of every day, migratory birds fill the skies of the western hemisphere, journeying from the High Arctic to Tierra del Fuego, across the Atlantic and Pacific, moving by day and night. Join naturalist and author Scott Weidensaul on an exploration of how and why birds migrate, and the

conservation challenges that face them, based on his book, *Living on the Wind: Across the Hemisphere with Migratory Birds*. The program ranges from the doorstep of the Aleutians in Alaska and the frozen edge of Hudson Bay in Canada, to landscapes as exotic as the grassy pampas of Argentina, and as familiar as the barrier islands of the Massachusetts coast. A presentation filled with the drama and sweep of this remarkable phenomenon. No reservation needed. Members: \$6.50 Non-members: \$8.50.

Thursday, July 17, 7 pm

FlightPath Speaker Series – Stephen Brown

Arctic Wings: Birds of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences Director of Shorebird Research Stephen Brown will present a stunning slideshow based on his research expeditions to Alaska's North Slope, and his book *Arctic Wings: Birds of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge*. The presentation features striking photographs of elusive arctic birds on their breeding grounds, and includes insights into new discoveries about their habitats and the conservation challenges facing them. No reservation needed. Members: \$6.50 Non-members: \$8.50.

Thursday, August 21, 7 pm

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FlightPath Speaker Series – Scott Hecker

The Piping Plover as an Umbrella Species for Beaches

The diminutive Piping Plover, and its federally threatened legal status, has contributed to over twenty years of increased protection of the fauna, flora, and habitats of the barrier beach ecosystem on the Atlantic Coast. Scott Hecker, Executive Director of the Goldenrod Foundation, will present a slide show focusing on these birds and the habitat they shares with other birds and fauna, while telling the story of this successful, ongoing conservation effort.

No reservation needed. Members: \$6.50 Non-members: \$8.50.

Thursday, October 16, 7 pm

About Plimoth Plantation

Plimoth Plantation is a bicultural, 17th-century living history museum located an hour south of Boston in Plymouth, (Exit 4, Route 3 south) and 20 minutes north of Cape Cod. The museum is open daily from 9 am, to 5 pm, 7 days a week, from March 22 through the end of November. Plimoth Plantation is a private, non-profit educational institution supported by admission fees, contributions, memberships, function sales and revenue from our varied dining programs/services/special events and museum shops. Plimoth Plantation is a Smithsonian Institution Affiliate and receives support from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, The Federal Institute of Museums and Library Services, The National Endowment for the Humanities, private foundations, corporations, and local businesses. For more information visit: www.plimoth.org.